

Message Text

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14

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 EB-07 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /045 W

----- 039337

R 080755Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO USMISSION MTN GENEVA

SECSTATE WASHDC 4057

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FOR AMBASSADOR DENT FROM WOLFF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD JA EC

SUBJECT: EFFECT OF RECENT EVENTS HERE ON MTN

1. THE BETTING IS THAT SAWAKI, JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO MANILA, WILL REPLACE TSURUMI WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO. HIS BACKGROUND IS AID, NOT TRADE, AND HE IS REPORTED TO BE AN ACTIVIST.

2. WOLFF WAS TOLD BY SEVERAL GOJ OFFICIALS THAT THE WEAKER POST-ELECTION POSITION OF THE LDP HERE SUGGESTS AN EVEN LOWER PROFILE FOR GOJ IN MTN WHILE BUREAUCRATS CLEAR POSITIONS WITH NEWLY DESIGNATED CABINET MEMBERS BEFORE ADVANCING THEM. CONDUCT OF GOJ MTN DEL CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE MORE CAUTIOUS AND CONSERVATIVE. THERE MAY BE ANOTHER ELECTION OF THE LOWER HOUSE NEXT YEAR IN ADDITION TO THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 1977.

3. MATSUDA, WHO HAS REPLACED HAYASHI AND NOGAMI SUCCESSIVELY AS THE MOF GATT OFFICIAL WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSE CONNECTION TO UKAWA (CLASSMATES IN HIGH SCHOOL AND SUBSEQUENTLY AT MOFA). AS YOU MAY KNOW, HIS BACKGROUND IS NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, NOT TRADE. HE SERVED IN COPENHAGEN AND LONDON AND WORKED ON OKINAWA REVERSION. HE SPEAKS RELATIVELY GOOD ENGLISH ALTHOUGH HE IS SOMETIMES SHY ABOUT USING IT, AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO MUCH CLOSER COORDINATION WITH U.S.

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TRADE OFFICIALS AT SENIOR CAREER LEVELS.

HODGSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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